

Volume 9 Issue 1

August 2007



# Eastside German Language School

Community Church of Issaquah, 205 Mountain Park Blvd SW, Issaquah, WA 98027

## Welcome

We'd like to welcome all of our students and their families for another fun year at the Eastside German Language School. We hope you had a great summer and look forward to seeing you when the school year begins on Saturday, September 8.

We're still accepting registrations for many classes and registration forms are on the Web site ([www.egls.us](http://www.egls.us)). If space is available, we'll be happy to accept registration forms on the first day of school.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at: [info@egls.us](mailto:info@egls.us).

—Erik Fortune and the EGLS Board

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## Schedule

*Classes are from 9:30 to noon. Children should bring a snack and a drink.*

- Sep 8 1st day of school
- Sep 15 No classes
- Nov 10 St. Martin's Day\*
- Nov 24 Holiday \*\*\*
- Dec. 1 St. Nicholas Day\*
- Dec 15 Weihnachtsfeier\*\*
- Dec 22 & 29 Holiday \*\*\*
- Jan. 5 AATG testing
- Feb 2 Faschingsfest\*\*
- Feb 16 No class (make up day, if necessary)
- Mar 22 Holiday \*\*\*
- Apr 12 Board Elections
- May 10 Last day of school (Maifest, Open House, Registration)\*\*

\* Regular Classes, plus event

\*\* Major Celebration at school (event only; no class)

\*\*\* Holiday; no school

SCHOOL SCHEDULE 2007-2008

## EGLS Memories

On a rainy Saturday morning in 1975, my father brought our VW Squareback to a stop at the base of Landerholm Circle. My sisters and I climbed out and made our way through the labyrinth of cement stairs and hallways of Bellevue Community College to our classroom. We sat in orange plastic chairs attached to wood veneer tables, which had ashtrays mounted to the sides so college students could smoke as they contemplated philosophy and economics.

Our EGLS class had many similarly knobby-kneed girls in it, wearing mostly hand-me-down dirndls, either too tight or too big, and together we learned German poetry, songs, and vocabulary. At celebrations like Weihnachtsfest and Osterfest, we sang as a group, and I could see my mother's face watching us, a little red, oddly smiling, tears streaming. She told us she cried because she was happy.

Now my children—and my sister's children—attend EGLS. At Maifest, when the children sang together as a choir, sentimental tears squeezed out of my eyes—in joy and sadness, and other emotions I can't describe.

When you have children, you decide in this big world of opportunities what you want to give them as lifelong gifts. My husband and I want to give our children the lifelong gift of the German language and culture. Our children are Americans, but the blood that flows through them and the roots of their ancestry are primarily Austrian and German. When they hear polka music and waltzes, we want them to feel the music in their hearts, and dance to it properly! When snowflakes drift on a quiet winter night, we want them to feel the magic and melody of *Leise Reselt Der Schnee*. I want them to understand their Opa's stories of marching with lanterns on St. Martinstag in pre-war Wuppertal. I want them to feel the spirit and warmth of real candles burning on the Tannenbaum during cold dark alpine nights on Christmas eve. When we stay in our ancestral home in the Austrian alps, I want them to belong to it.

My children and I are students at EGLS to nurture our heritage and claim it as our own, and to find joy and a sense of belonging in the rich, beautiful culture of Germany and Austria. I hope that your family also finds lifelong joy from the teachings of this small but established school!

—Monica Rockwell, former and present student of EGLS

**Trivia Question:** Which five countries speak German as their primary language?

(Answer on page 2.)

## EGLS Contact Information

**Mailing address:**

*Eastside German Language School  
700 NW Gilman Blvd #134  
Issaquah, WA 98027-5335*

**Email:** [info@egls.us](mailto:info@egls.us) / **Web site:** [www.egls.us](http://www.egls.us)

**Message number:** (253) 859-8309

*Please leave a brief message with your name and number, and a volunteer will return your call within a few days.*

*EGLS thanks the Community Church of Issaquah for the use of its facilities! Your tax deductible donations are gladly accepted! Make checks payable to EGLS and mail them to the Eastside German Language School.*

## Welcome, New 2007–08 Teachers!

Playgroup—Kerstin Wick and Jennifer Hofman. Kerstin will teach through October while Jennifer is on maternity leave.

Preschool—Gabi Priss. Gabi is working on her early childhood degree at the Bellevue Community College.

Kindergarten—Bettina Berton and Judith Mainone. Both are very involved with the German community.

1st Grade—Henrica Lajoie. Henrica received her elementary school teaching degree in Germany and taught there for several years.

Youth Beginners—Ulrike Stoll. Ulrike studied German in Dresden as well as in Ohio and taught several adult and youth classes.

Special thanks to Kevin Garrett, Antje Staudt, and Michaela Stranik for their enthusiasm and work last year. We will miss them and hope they will visit us at our social events this year!

—Ulla Bode, Principal



### Tent City Arrives at the Community Church of Issaquah



In August, the Issaquah Community Church opened its parking lot to help up to 100 homeless men and women through a program called “Tent City 4.” This program has been operating for 16 years and is sponsored by a non-profit group called SHARE/WHEEL. The program provides otherwise homeless people a safe place to live while they better their lives through employment (70% are currently employed) or attend educational programs to result in employment. A few people stay for medical reasons.

In the history of Tent City, no child or neighbor has ever been harmed because of the encampment. The Seattle Times conducted an investigation in 2004 that showed crime does not go up when Tent City is in a neighborhood, and those statistics hold true today. Careful screening, strict rules, and random visits from police keep the campers and public safe. I stopped by Tent City with my children last week and I was very impressed with the program.

TC4 Security Guards greet you at the only entrance/exit to the camp. They allow tours anytime. Tents are laid out neatly in rows, and campers name their tents. My children loved “Heidi’s Hole in the Wall”. The camp is very quiet because of enforced strict codes of conduct.

Hot meals are brought in nightly by volunteers. During the day, campers can heat up soup with hot pots or make cold sandwiches. The camp has a portable electric shower and a hut with a washer and dryer, generously supplied by the Issaquah Church. Tent City moves out of the EGLS parking lot on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

- Tour Tent City on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 - meet at the entrance to the camp
- Donate canned food in the cafeteria during the month of September
- Monitor the playground area and school by contacting [info@egls.us](mailto:info@egls.us)



—Monica Rockwell

**Answer to Trivia Question:** Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Luxemburg, and Lichtenstein.

#### Canned Food Drive for Tent City 4

EGLS is collecting canned soup, tuna, and chicken to help our neighbors in the parking lot!

Donated items will be collected in a marked box in the school cafeteria during school hours in September.

#### Non-Discrimination Policy

*The Eastside German Language School admits students of any race, color, creed, national and ethnic origin, and sexual orientation to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, financial aid programs, athletic programs, hiring and employment, or in any other way.*

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